CLAIMS

Having thus described the aforementioned invention, we claim:

1. An apparatus for lifting and carrying a watercraft out of the water, said apparatus comprising:

a pair of support members attached to a surface, said support members having at least one support stop;

a pair of rails attached to said pair of support members at a pivot point, said pair of rails having a first end, said pair of rails having a loading position and a stowed position, said pair of rails having at least one rail stop, said at least one rail stop cooperating with said at least one support stop to position said pair of rails at said loading position;

a friction strip attached to each of said pair of rails, each said friction strip positioned to prevent the watercraft from sliding completely off of said pair of rails;

a pulley in fixed relation to said first end of said pair of rails, said pulley located above a plane defined by said pair of rails;

a bumper in fixed relation to said first end of said pair of rails, said bumper adapted to mate with a bow of the watercraft;

a winch fixed relative to said pair of support members, said winch having a cable cooperating with said pulley, said cable having a means for attaching to the watercraft, said winch adapted to retract said cable with said cable attached to the watercraft, said winch for pulling the watercraft onto said pair of rails until the watercraft contacts said bumper, at which time said cable rotates said pair of rails about said pivot point, moving said pair of rails, and the watercraft, into said stowed position.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 further including a pair of runners, each said runner attached to one of said pair of rails for sliding the watercraft along said pair of rails.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said cable is one of a rope and a strap.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1 further including a walkboard attached to at least one of said pair of rails, said walkboard adapted for a person to stand beside the watercraft.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said pair of support members are secured to one of a swim platform, a boat deck, and a dock.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said pivot point includes a bar transversely positioned relative to said pair of support members and said pair of rails, said bar having a circular cross-section.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1 further including a hollow member extending between said pair of rails at said pivot point and a bar positioned inside said hollow member, said bar rotating relative to said hollow member when said pair of rails moves between said loading position and said stowed position.

8. An apparatus for lifting and carrying a watercraft out of the water, said apparatus comprising:

a means for holding a watercraft;

a means for securing said means for holding in a loading position;

a means for pulling the watercraft onto said means for holding; and

a means for moving said means for holding from a loading position into a stowed position.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8 further including a means for accessing the watercraft.

10. An apparatus for lifting and carrying a watercraft out of the water, said apparatus comprising:

a rail member attached to a pivot point, said rail member having a first end, said rail member having a loading position and a stowed position;

a pulley in fixed relation to said first end of said rail member;

a winch fixed relative to said pivot point, said winch having a cable cooperating with said pulley, said cable having a means for attaching to the watercraft, said winch adapted to retract said cable with said cable attached to the watercraft, said winch for pulling the watercraft onto said rail member until the watercraft is cradled by said rail member, at which time said cable rotates said rail member about said pivot point, moving said rail member into said stowed position.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said rail member includes a pair of rails.

12. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said rail member includes at least one friction strip, said at least one friction strip positioned to prevent the watercraft from sliding completely off of said rail member.

13. The apparatus of Claim 10 further including at least one runner, said runner attached to said rail member for sliding the watercraft along said rail member.

14. The apparatus of Claim 10 further including a bumper in fixed relation to said first end of said rail member, said bumper adapted to mate with a bow of the watercraft.

15. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said rail member has a second end opposite said first end, said second end of said rail member having a bevel,

said bevel presenting a sloping surface for engaging the watercraft with said rail member in said loading position.

16. The apparatus of Claim 10 further including at least one support stop in fixed relation to said pivot point, said rail member having at least one rail stop, said at least one rail stop cooperating with said at least one support stop to position said rail member at said loading position.

17. The apparatus of Claim 10 further including a walkboard attached to said rail member, said walkboard adapted for a person to stand beside the watercraft.

18. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said pivot point is in fixed relation to one of a swim platform, a boat deck, and a dock.

19. The apparatus of Claim 10 further including a hollow member extending along a pivot axis at said pivot point and a bar positioned inside said hollow member, said hollow member attached to said rail member, said bar rotating relative to said hollow member when said rail member moves between said loading position and said stowed position.

20. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said cable is one of a rope and a strap.